THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) No such report has come to notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Open telephone junction boxes in Delhi

397. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of open telephone junction boxes are existing all over Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that through these open junction boxes fraudulent calls are being made by tapping these boxes;

(c) whether Government have assessed the loss of revenue to the Department as a result of calls made from these junction boxes; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to check the illegal use of the boxes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No Sir, telephone junction boxes are normally kept closed and locked. Any junction box reported to be broken or found opened is locked again as soon as it come to notice.

(b) Open junction boxes provide possibility for misuse by unscruplous elements. Hence these are kept locked.

(c) In view of above there is no perceptible loss of revenue to the Department.

(d) All the junction boxes are normally kept locked. There are regular patrolling parties who keep a vigil on the junction boxes.

Upgradation of Sonari telephone exchange of Sibsagar, Assam

398. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 600 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd January, 1991 and state by when the upgradation of the present Sonari Telephone Exchange at Sibsagar, Assam, which is under construction would be completed and start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): Upgradation work is going on by installing two numbers of 128 lines C-DOT Electronic Exchanges. The exchanges are targetted for commissioning by middle of October, 1991.

National Highway in Assam

399. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money annually sanctioned by the Centre for improvement and maintenance of National Highways in Assam during the last three years;

(b) the amounts spent by the State Government and the amount returned unspent during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The details of the amounts allotted and actually spent for the maintenance and improvement of National Highways